

during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

#### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in my office be granted floor privileges until August 19, 2022: Sarah Ryan, Caleb Waters, Caroline Decker, Sean Keating, Brett Logsdon, Katie Rock, Chip Wyatt, Garrison Danzer, Addison Scherler, Spencer Woodall, Katie Elliott, and Caleb Webb.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### ACCESS TO BABY FORMULA ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7791, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7791) to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to establish waiver authority to address certain emergencies, disasters, and supply chain disruptions, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 7791) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Senate has just passed legislation to help ease the terrible nightmare parents are facing trying to find baby formula for their kids.

It is rare that we have unanimity in the Senate on important measures, and I wish we had more, but this is one of these important issues, and I am glad we are acting with one voice.

It is the stuff of nightmares for parents to race to the grocery store or the

drugstore only to find the shelves empty of baby formula or, even worse, maybe causing more anguish because there is formula on the shelf, but they can't buy it because WIC didn't allow them to. This shortage of baby formula is causing unimaginable stress, unimaginable anguish for parents, and immense harm on America's young kids.

There is already such a strain on parents of newborn children, especially in the times of COVID. The last thing parents and caregivers need is for it to be even harder to feed their children. The step we are taking today is going to add flexibility and relief to WIC beneficiaries, and almost half of all baby formula consumed in the United States is by WIC beneficiaries. Now millions of parents will have an easier time finding the baby formula they need.

I want to thank Senator STABENOW. She has been amazing in shepherding this through. She got it through the House. She came up with the idea. And now we are here to pass it in the Senate and send to the President's desk. She had a great partner in Senator BOOZMAN who stepped up to the plate as well. I thank them for championing this legislation.

As I mentioned, it already passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support, and I am glad it is passing the Senate.

Yesterday, President Biden invoked the DPA, Defense Production Act, to respond to the shortage of baby formula that is hurting parents and caretakers of newborns across the country. The President and Democrats in Congress are taking this issue seriously, and invoking the DPA was exactly the right response.

To the parents and caregivers of America, we hear you. We know this is an unacceptable crisis. The Senate is taking action. President Biden has taken action to increase imports of safe baby formula and to increase production of formula in our country. The House has taken action, and now the Senate is. We must keep going because there is more to do.

I yield to Senator STABENOW who, as I mentioned, did an amazingly great job on this issue.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I want to thank our leader who has been right there every moment giving us the opportunity to be able to move this through quickly.

I am very pleased to say the Access to Baby Formula Act, after Senator SCHUMER's actions, will be going to the President for his signature. This is really important as part of what we need to do to deal with an immediate crisis. The reality is that right this minute, moms and dads are trying to figure out what they are going to be able to do to give safe baby formula to their children. Is it on the shelf? Where will they have to go to get it? How many days, hours are we going to have to wait to do this? It is an incredible—incredible—emergency.

What I so appreciate is that we came together—House, Senate, Democrats and Republicans—and acted, frankly, I think faster than I anticipated from writing the bill in the beginning of the week to Thursday having it pass the House and now the Senate to go to the President.

I don't think we should be giving ourselves too many kudos here because I wish this hadn't happened in the very beginning. We shouldn't have seen what happened at the Abbott plant. In my mind, the FDA should have moved more quickly to respond to it. But when we became aware of all of this, we came together very quickly to do what we could.

The reality is that half of the baby formula in this country goes to moms and babies who are on a very important program that is called the Women, Infants, and Children's Program. We know that we have to do everything humanly possible to take away any barrier for them to be able to get this important food for children—to get baby formula for children—and that is what we have done to make sure that the USDA can act quickly.

I want to thank Secretary Vilsack, who in fact has acted quickly and who has worked with us on this legislation.

We also want to make sure that every manufacturer of baby formula going forward is required to participate in WIC to have a comprehensive plan of what to do in an emergency, what to do if their supply chain breaks down or something else that stops our moms and babies from getting what is essential daily nutrients for them to be healthy. This is an important program that has worked for a long, long time.

I am so pleased to have my friend and ranking member Senator BOOZMAN working with me. We came together very quickly. I want to thank our staffs for doing that as well.

This is not the only thing that needs to happen, but it is really important that we move forward and make it clear that if you are on WIC and you go to the grocery store and the formula that you are supposed to buy by grant is not available, but there is something else available, you can buy it. You can get it. We are not going to put any barriers up for your getting safe baby formula. This is an important piece.

I want to thank President Biden for acting as well, reaching out to our partners in the European Union to be able to import safe baby formula as fast as possible. There are other producers, manufacturers in the country increasing their production right now.

But the most important thing is that we let families know that we are going to do everything possible to make sure that their babies get what they need as soon as possible and that we understand—I certainly understand as a mom; I understand as a grandma—that this is a horror for families with babies.

And I am very appreciative that the U.S. Senate came together as quickly